

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - entering via a web-based portal user requirements data determinative of a configuration of a telecommunications system for providing voice and data communications to a plurality of 5 users;
 - translating the user requirements data into configuration data, wherein the configuration data is stored in a storage location coupled to the portal;
 - providing the configuration data to a manufacturing agent;
 - manufacturing the communications system, wherein the step of manufacturing the 10 communications includes the step of loading the configuration data into the communications system, wherein the communications system operates based on the configuration data; and
 - providing the communications system to a customer.

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